

## 2013 Council Study Issue

**ESD 12-03 Impact of Sea Level Rise on Land Use****Lead Department** Environmental Services**History** 1 year ago Deferred 2 years ago None**1. What are the key elements of the issue? What precipitated it?**

This study issue was initiated by the Sustainability Commission. The Commission recommended a study to evaluate the potential environmental and economic impacts surrounding land use in Sunnyvale based on existing City Policy and General Plan (and pending General Plan Update) statements in light of vulnerabilities associated with projected sea level rise. The basis and outcome of this study is the creation of a whitepaper that may support a future study issue creating recommendations for adaptation strategies.

The Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) has developed a background report titled *"Living With A Rising Bay: Vulnerability And Adaptation In San Francisco Bay And On the Shoreline"* (April 7, 2009). The report identifies vulnerabilities in the Bay Area's economic and environmental systems, as well as the potential impacts of climate change on public health and safety. This background report provides the basis for all versions of the proposed findings and policies concerning climate change.

**2. How does this relate to the General Plan or existing City Policy?****Policy 2.4.1 Seismic Safety and Safety — Mission Statements (Goals), Policies and Key Initiatives (Action Strategies)**

Mission Statement A: Ensure that natural and human-caused hazards are recognized and considered in decisions affecting the community, and that land uses reflect acceptable levels of risk based on identified hazards and occupancy

**Policy A2 Flood Hazards**

Take measures to protect life and property from the effects of a 1% (100 year) flood.

Mission Statement B: Ensure that the City, its community members, business, industry, faith-based organizations, community organizations, and special needs populations are prepared to effectively respond to major emergencies.

**Policy B3 Emergency Planning & Coordination**

Provide an integrated approach to planning and management for emergencies and disasters.

**Policy B5 Business and Industry**

Provide information and assistance to business and industry to encourage their own planning and preparedness for emergencies and disasters.

**Policy B6 Community**

Provide the community members of Sunnyvale information, encouragement and assistance with emergency planning and preparedness.

**Policy 1.0.1 Land Use and Transportation — Goals, Policies and Action Statements**

## THE CITY AS PART OF A REGION

Goal R1- Protect and sustain a high quality of life in Sunnyvale by participating in coordinated land use and transportation planning in the region.

## THE NEIGHBORHOODS

Goal N1- Preserve and enhance the quality character of Sunnyvale's industrial, commercial, and residential neighborhoods by promoting land use patterns and related transportation opportunities that are supportive of the neighborhood concept.

### Policy 1.1.9 Sustainable Development and Green Buildings

#### POLICY PURPOSE

This policy is designed to encourage sustainable development throughout the City of Sunnyvale, to provide education and information to the community, and to serve as an acknowledgement by the City Council of the importance of sustainable development concepts and practices.

#### 3. Origin of issue

**Board or Commission** Sustainability Commission

#### 4. Staff effort required to conduct study Moderate

##### Briefly explain the level of staff effort required

Staff support for this study may range from moderate to major. This study would require staff to review the current General Plan and other city policies against the BCDC vulnerability and adaptation report identifying anticipated sea level rise impacting Sunnyvale.

#### 5. Multiple Year Project? Yes Planned Completion Year 2014

#### 6. Expected participation involved in the study issue process?

**Does Council need to approve a work plan?** No

**Does this issue require review by a Board/Commission?** Yes

**If so, which?** Planning Commission, Sustainability Commission

**Is a Council Study Session anticipated?** Yes

#### 7. Briefly explain if a budget modification will be required to study this issue

**Amount of budget modification required** 0

##### Explanation

#### 8. Briefly explain potential costs of implementing study results, note estimated capital and operating costs, as well as estimated revenue/savings, include dollar amounts

**Are there costs of implementation?** Yes

##### Explanation

No capital or operating costs would result from this study; anticipate study to be completed by staff. The study has the potential to inform the City by identifying vulnerabilities to Sunnyvale as a result of anticipated sea level rise. The study may provide information that allows the City to make General Plan and policies decisions based on the study results.

## 9. Staff Recommendation

### Staff Recommendation Defer

#### If 'Support', 'Drop' or 'Defer', explain

Staff recommends deferral of this study. Staff believes that this study may be a worthy exercise when a regional framework has been identified. Additionally, the City is currently revising the Land Use and Transportation Element (LUTE) of the General Plan in which many policies may be changed and new policies added. To initiate this study at this time would be premature given the changes that are expected from the completion of the Horizon 2035 Committees work on the LUTE and Climate Action Plan.

Reviewed by

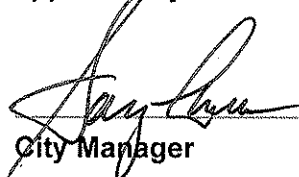


Department Director

10-1-12

Date

Approved by



City Manager

10-1-12

Date